

## **5.0. The LBA–Ecology Project Organization**

### **5.1 NASA Headquarters LBA–Ecology Program Office**

The principal role of the LBA–Ecology Program Office is to establish, monitor and guide the general directions for the scientific research program, provide policy guidance to the Project, and secure funding from internal and external sources to support the defined research program. The Program Office also provides mechanisms for periodic external scientific review of the progress and direction of the Project, monitors scientific progress, and reports project accomplishments to upper level NASA management and the outside world. The Program Managers are the points of contact for coordinating the research activities of LBA–Ecology with other collaborating U.S. and foreign agencies and are the NASA nominees to the overall LBA Organizing and Implementing Committee (OIC).

### **5.2 LBA–Ecology Project Office**

NASA’s LBA–Ecology Project Office is composed of three functional groups; 1) the general Project Office at GSFC under the direction of Donald Deering, the Project Manager, 2) the project’s Science Office at the University of New Hampshire under the direction of Michael Keller, the Project Scientist, and 3) the project’s Data and Information Support Office at ORNL (associated with the Biogeochemistry DAAC), whose activities are coordinated by Marilyn Gentry.

#### **5.2.1 Project Office at Goddard Space Flight Center**

The Project Office is responsible for coordination of activities and resource sharing among investigators, and fulfills this function through development and analysis of budgets and logistical plans that maximize the impact of project resources. The NASA LBA–Ecology Project Office provides the planning expertise, coordination capabilities, and logistical support to enable the Science Team to fulfill its objectives.

To fulfill its responsibility for the direction of project implementation, planning, schedules, and field operations, the Project Office has undertaken the development of the infrastructure to support field activities, the establishment of a data handling and distribution system to be compatible with LBA–DIS and compliant with LBA data policies, and the generation of the Experiment Plan to define and outline implementation plans. The Project Office also plans and organizes LBA–Ecology meetings and workshops and provides logistical support for field studies.

##### **5.2.1.1 Project Manager**

The LBA–Ecology Project Manager, Dr. Donald W. Deering, manages personnel and financial resources as required implementing the program of research defined by the Program Office and refined by the Project Science Team.

The LBA–Ecology Project Manager:

- Implements of all the NASA Terrestrial Ecology and Land Cover and Land Use Change Programs’ contributions to LBA;
- Is responsible for all day–to–day activities to implement LBA–Ecology;
- Works closely with NASA HQ Program Managers and with the LBA–Ecology Project Scientist in order to accomplish these responsibilities; and
- Serves as an *ex officio* member of the LBA–Ecology Science Team to provide necessary interaction and feedback with the Project Office.

#### **5.2.1.2 Deputy Project Manager**

The Deputy Project Manager position, which is a U.S. civil servant position and was formerly held by Dr. Elizabeth M. Middleton, is currently unfilled. The Deputy position is appointed by the Project Manager in consultation with the Program Manager with the concurrence of the Biospheric Sciences Branch Head. The Deputy’s role is complementary to that of the Project Manager. The nominal functions assigned to the Deputy are currently fulfilled by the Project Support Manager, Dr. Stefan Sandmeier.

#### **5.2.1.3 Project Office Staff**

Several staff members have been identified to take leadership roles for various aspects of Project Office activities. Stefan Sandmeier oversees project support activities, including the development of the Experiment Plan. Marc Nadler is responsible for leading the LBA–Ecology DIS, while Jeff Newcomer serves as the liaison with the LBA–DIS. Dan Hodgkinson leads Infrastructure efforts. Laura McShane is responsible for Administration and U.S.–based Education and Outreach activities. Janice Wiles oversees coordination with the LBA Central Project Office and other LBA components, as well as Education and Outreach efforts in Brazil. Contact information for these staff members is located in Appendix C.

#### **5.2.1.4 Brazilian LBA–Ecology Liaison**

The Brazilian Liaison Officer is located at Centro de Previsão de Tempo e Estudos Climáticos (CPTEC) in Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil. LBA–Ecology’s Brazil Liaison Officer, Ms. Janice S. Wiles, interacts directly with the LBA Project Office to ensure the compatibility of LBA–Ecology plans with those of other LBA modules, as well as to facilitate logistical arrangements for individual LBA–Ecology investigations in Brazil and provides an interface to the overall LBA Project. The Brazilian LBA–Ecology Project Liaison Officer serves as a conduit for LBA–related information, and provides assurance to Brazilian agencies that LBA–Ecology Science Team members are meeting the pertinent requirements for scientific experimentation in research areas. This liaison also supports Training and Education and Community Outreach activities of the LBA Project.

#### **5.2.1.5 Brazilian Regional LBA–Ecology Officer**

A Brazilian Regional Officer will be located in Santarém, Pará, Brazil. This officer will provide an interface with the Science Team, other LBA–Ecology offices, and the local

community. LBA–Ecology’s Infrastructure and Logistics Coordinator, Ms. Lisa Zweede, will be based out of this location and will work directly with investigators to facilitate their activities in the area. Due to its proximity to several of the LBA–Ecology study sites, this officer will be able to assist investigators with local logistics, infrastructure needs, and the coordination of use and maintenance of common equipment such as vehicles, communication equipment, and laboratory space. In addition, the regional office will serve as a source of project related information for the local community and will support local Training and Education and Community Outreach activities.

### **5.2.2 LBA–Ecology Project Science Office at University of New Hampshire**

The Science Office is located in the Complex Systems Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Two staff members support the Project Scientist and assist him in accomplishing his responsibilities to the Project.

#### **5.2.2.1 Project Scientist**

The Project Scientist, Dr. Michael M. Keller, coordinates the Science Team for LBA–Ecology. The main responsibilities of the LBA–Ecology Project Scientist are:

- Leading and organizing the LBA–Ecology Science Team and representing all scientific issues, priorities, and requirements to Program and Project Management.
- Working with the Project Manager and the LBA Project Office, as appropriate, to make science–related implementation decisions as required.
- Ensuring that NASA Program and Project management are fully informed of scientific results and accomplishments.
- Serving as a member of the overall LBA Science Steering Committee.

### **5.2.3 Oak Ridge National Laboratory / Distributed Active Archive Center**

The ORNL DAAC is operated as part of the NASA’s Earth Science Enterprise. The ORNL DAAC distributes data and information relating to biogeochemical dynamics. The DAAC will serve as the long–term active archive and distribution center for data resulting from the LBA–Ecology investigations. The ORNL DAAC and the LBA–Ecology DIS will coordinate activities to ensure that LBA data meet the DAAC archive requirements and that the data are transferred to the DAAC and made available to the community of users in a timely fashion.